

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 14. (CANCELED)

Claim 15. (NEW) A plastic container comprising: a self-supporting base; a body portion extending above the base, said body portion including an annular wall; and a neck portion extending above the body portion, said neck portion including a dispensing opening; wherein said body portion includes a substantially rigid sidewall portion including a structural reinforcement, said structural reinforcement including a plurality of reinforcement formations extending around said annular wall in the form of indentations and interspersed lands arranged in a staggered, overlapping configuration, said reinforcement formations being rectangular, brick-like formations with a recessed central portion, wherein said reinforcement formations are separated by intervening raised lands and are present in a plurality of circumferential rows each of which extend completely around said annular wall, and wherein said rectangular, brick-like formations have a width and a depth, and the ratio of width to depth is from 10:1 to 2:1.

Claim 16. (NEW) A container according to claim 15, including 4 to 8 of said rows.

Claim 17. (NEW) A container according to claim 16, wherein the ratio of width to depth is from 2:1 to 3:1.

Claim 18. (NEW) A container according to claim 16, wherein the ratio of width to depth is from 8:1 to 10:1.

Claim 19. (NEW) A container according to claim 15, wherein the base includes a flexible portion configured to contract upwardly in response to vacuum generated within the container.

Claim 20. (NEW) A container according to claim 19, wherein the base includes a substantially rigid, peripheral support portion, a central flexible portion and a transition segment between the support portion and the flexible portion.

Claim 21. (NEW) A container according to claim 15, wherein said sidewall portion includes at least one annular ring.

Claim 22. (NEW) A container according to claim 21, wherein said at least one annular ring is above said brick-like formations.

Claim 23. (NEW) A container according to claim 15, wherein said body portion includes at least one additional pressure relief formation.

Claim 24. (NEW) A container according to claim 15, wherein said plastic container includes recycled plastic material.

Claim 25. (NEW) A container according to claim 15, wherein said container includes a coating on the internal surface of the container.

Claim 26. (NEW) A container according to claim 25, wherein said coating is a carbon coating.

Claim 27. (NEW) A container according to claim 15, wherein said container is hot fillable.

Claim 28. (NEW) A container according to claim 15, wherein said body portion includes a shoulder portion between the sidewall portion and the neck portion, and wherein said shoulder portion includes at least one pressure relief formation that can move inwardly in response to internal pressure.

Claim 29. (NEW) A container according to claim 15, wherein the base includes a plurality of support legs separated by recessed portions.

Claim 30. (NEW) A container according to claim 15, wherein the base includes a ribbed portion with ribs extending outwardly from a button-like central portion and a peripheral outer rigid support portion.

Claim 31. (NEW) A container according to claim 15, wherein the base includes a circumferential ribbed area surrounding a central button-like portion.

Claim 32. (NEW) A container according to claim 30, wherein the peripheral rigid support portion includes pressure relief formations thereon.